

February 12, 1976

language was drawn on the best advice I had and that was the recommendation to me. I would think, Senator Chambers, that the attempt to do that in this body, in terms of your remarks, would not meet with much success.

So, Mr. Chairman, I guess that answers that question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The reason I sat down, I didn't want Senator Lewis to think his answer would be cut off because that wasn't why I asked the question. It wasn't a trick question.

When the Constitution is amended that becomes a part of the fundamental and basic document of this state. I'm not as trusting, of the Legislature, as some of the members who sit here are. I think this language is very, very broad. But at this point I'm not going to do anything to try to interfere with its adoption or the advancement of the bill. Between now and the time it reaches Select File, if I'm not satisfied, I may try to work something out, Senator Lewis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, fellow members of the Legislature. There are several things, within this particular constitutional proposal, that disturb me. One, we're talking about two separate issues, two separate portions of the Constitution within one provision that will be on the ballot. One of these provisions is the allowance of contracting services for the handicapped into private schools. The second is to allow state money to be matched with federal money to go to students attending private, post-secondary education. I think some states have gone this route, I suggest Illinois as an example. The problems in Illinois, however, are quite a bit different than the problems in Nebraska. Illinois' post-secondary schools absolutely, the public post-secondary schools, the tax supported post-secondary schools, did not have the capacity to handle the youngsters that needed post-secondary education in Illinois. In Nebraska this is not the case. In fact, we have shortages of students in our post-secondary field. Whether it be the University of Nebraska, whether it be the state colleges Peru, Chadron, Wayne, whether it be the technical ... vocational technical community colleges where we hear radio advertisement, day after day, soliciting students, I think we have a shortage of funds and money ... or trying to provide secondary ... post-secondary education right now. To open this up now and to spread the tax dollars thinner amongst the private post-secondary educational institutions, I think, would be very vain for this Legislature to try to spread those tax dollars farther than they're being spread right now. They're probably being diverted in too many directions at this point.

I have a couple of questions of Senator Lewis. He's asking for a constitutional adjustment, I'm talking primarily now in the area of the handicapped. It appears to me that the Legislature has the power to provide these programs for the handicapped under the existing provisions of the Constitution. We have the power to provide the programs, to set up the programs. If these programs are needed I think that's what we should do then under the existing framework of the Constitution.